



08/367,056  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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08/367,056 12/30/94 SAIGH

M DN1331

EXAMINER

LIM, K

E3M1/1103

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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2315

DATE MAILED: 11/03/95

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☒ This application has been examined ☐ Responsive to communication filed on \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three(3) month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.  
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned, 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- ☒ Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
- ☐ Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☒ Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
- ☐ Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
- ☒ Substitute PTO-948  
Form PTO 1474

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

- ☒ Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.  
Of the above, claims \_\_\_\_\_ are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ have been cancelled.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed.
- ☒ Claims 1-17 are rejected.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are objected to.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
- ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
- ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
- ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on \_\_\_\_\_. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).
- ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed \_\_\_\_\_, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).
- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received ☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. \_\_\_\_\_; filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
- ☒ Other - See attached.

EXAMINER'S ACTION

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15. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

16. The title of the invention is neither descriptive nor precise. A new title is required which should include, using twenty words or fewer, claimed features that differentiate the invention from the Prior Art. The title should reflect the gist of or the improvement of the present invention.

17. The drawings are objected to because, in Fig. 1, suitable meaningful legends are recommended, **not just numerals**, for inadequately labeled drawings. See M.P.E.P 608.02 and 37 C.F.R 1.84(o). Correction is required.

18. Applicants are required to submit a proposed drawing correction in response to this Office action. However, correction of the noted defect (formal drawing) can be deferred until the application is allowed by the examiner. Moreover, the applicant is reminded of the provisions of M.P.E.P 608.02(r) regarding separate letter of the draftsman.

19. Claims 3 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

(a) In claim 3, "such memory unit" is unclear.

(b) In claims 12-15, it is unclear what constitutes this configuration to perform such functions.

(c) In claim 16, "such memory unit" is unclear.

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20. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

21. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

22. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over the publication "The Heller Report" [Hereinafter, the publication]. This publication is submitted by the applicant.

23. The publication discloses [e.g., see the whole report] the invention as claimed. Taking claims 1-17 as exemplary claims, the publication discloses a

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distribution system that offer users [e.g., students] a "rent"-or-buy option for electronic versions of textbooks with self-erase after a fixed time. In addition, the publication discloses the use of valid ID card in order for the user to download any number of available books at their local point of purchase from a large databank via satellite. These books will be downloaded only to those verified as users; each PIN-verified (Personal Identification Number) customer will have an electronic "signature" embedded in his or her copy at the POP [point of purchase], so that only his or her hardware device can read it; users renting or buying texts cannot make copies; and rental texts will be programmed to self-erase after a prefixed number of weeks or months.

24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The references are cited in the Form PTO-892 for the applicant's review.

25. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) days from the mail date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application (see 35 U.S.C 133, M.P.E.P 710.02, 710.02(b)).

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Krisna Lim** whose telephone number is (703) 305-9672. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Parshotam S. Lall, can be reached on (703) 305-9715. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-5356.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.



**Krisna Lim**  
**Primary Patent Examiner**  
**Group 2300**

kl  
October 28, 1995